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Proceedings of the Club

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 28, 1900

Vice-President Allen in the chair; about 270 persons were present.

Two resignations were accepted, of Miss Oline M. Ewing and of Mrs. D. P. Kingsford. One new member was elected, Mrs. Isaac Harris, 125 St. Marks Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The evening was devoted to a popular lecture on the "Autumn Wild Flowers" native to the vicinity of New York City, by Mr. C. Van Brunt, with lantern-slides, and included not only wild flowers, but also marsh views, autumnal foliage, and tracts of reddened samphire. The speaker took his audience to the Hackensack marshes, showing cat-tail, pickerel-weed, *Sagittaria*, *Coreopsis*, *Miloania*, sneezeweed, the lobelias, etc. Then the marshes about Jamaica Bay were visited, with beach-goldenrod, dodder, *Sabbatia*, *Gerardia*, *Lacinaria*, *Hibiscus*, etc. The weeds surviving about a deserted house yielded some of the most interesting pictures, showing magnified details of burdock, catnip, motherwort, matrimony-vine, knotweeds, etc. Other flowers shown included several goldenrods, asters and gentians, with fruits of milkweeds, holly and *Smilacina*. The series closed with rich displays of color in the herbaceous borders at the Botanical Garden at Bronx Park.

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 10, 1900

President Brown in the chair; twenty persons were present.

Four resignations were reported and accepted, those of Mr. Morris E. Leeds, Dr. Jerome B. Thomas, Jr., Mr. F. Wayland Fellowes, Miss Harriet M. Denison. Two new members were elected, Miss Martha Bunting, 36 E. 12th St., Miss Amy Schüssler, 474 W. 150th St.

On motion of Dr. Underwood, the Club nominated Dr. M. A. Howe as its candidate for the Newberry award for this year.

Dr. Britton called special attention to the Torrey Club excursion next Saturday to the Botanical Garden and the opening of the Saturday afternoon lecture course on that day. The progress of vegetation there now seems about two weeks late.

Dr. Underwood reported the acceptance by the Editorial Board of a paper on certain Powdery Mildews, being a monograph of the genus *Erysiphe*, by Mr. E. S. Salmon, of the Kew Gardens, London. This will form one of the forthcoming Memoirs of the Torrey Club and its expense has been guaranteed without charge to the Club. A large part of the Memoir is based on American material.

The paper of the evening was by Professor F. E. Lloyd, "Studies in the genus *Lycopodium*." Professor Lloyd discussed the distinguishing characters of the North American species, with reference to structure and habit. Two new species were recognized in this review of the genus. One group of species is remarkable for greater variation here than in Europe, producing five species here and one there; including here *L. inundatum* and its var. *Bigelovii*, *L. adpressum*, *L. alopecuroides* and *L. pinnatum*. The type-specimen of *L. pinnatum* of this group was exhibited. These species develop toward the close of the season a strong, starchy thickening of the growing end of the stem. This serves as a basis of growth the next spring. Professor Lloyd also restored the long-forgotten species *L. Sitchense*, which has 5 rows of leaves, but has been confused with the 4-rowed species, *L. sabinaefolium*.

Dr. Underwood followed, remarking on the general distribution of *Lycopodium*, about 94 species or perhaps properly about 120; of which 12 are North American; perhaps 21 are peculiar to the Andes, and with them grow many others which extend into Mexico or Guiana; about 8 are peculiar to Madagascar, 4 to India, etc.; mostly in mountain regions. *L. cernuum* probably encircles the world in the tropics. The local distribution along Atlantic America is peculiar, *L. alopecuroides*, reported from New England, cannot be traced by accessible specimens north of Long Island. The sprawling and arching habit of this species with spongy interior and caterpillar-like or foxtail-like exterior gives it a very peculiar effect. Dr. Underwood also described his discoveries of *L. porophilum* in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Alabama, etc.

The Secretary raised the question of the distribution of *L. annotinum*, which is present in the Adirondacks, Catskills and

Palisades, and forms compact areas in the Pocono ; but has been searched for westward in New York without success.

Dr. Britton spoke of the interest attaching to *L. porophilum* as growing on sandstone rocks. Plants on sandstone rocks which have been attributed to *L. Selago* should be reëxamined with this in mind. Still another form on the sandstones of the Shawangunk also deserves further investigation. Miss Sanial reported collecting five species in or close to New York City.

Dr. Britton referred to a Japanese Witchhazel flowering April 1st at the Botanical Garden, *Hamamelis arborea*, with thorny, pinkish yellow flowers with dark central eye formed by the claret-colored calyx. It has been cultivated at Kew since 1875.

Adjournment followed.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 25, 1900

Vice-President Allen in the chair ; seventeen present.

Two new members were elected : Mrs. William Walter Clark, 27 W. 26th St., New York City ; Mr. William L. Fisher, St. Paul's School, Garden City, N. Y.

Dr. Britton suggested that the meeting of the club be held at the home of Dr. Allen, at Litchfield, Conn., during the evening of May 30th ; on motion it was determined to do so.

Dr. Britton also proposed that the meeting of May 8th be held in the lecture hall of the Museum Building at the New York Botanical Garden at 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon. On motion the proposition was carried.

The paper of the evening was by Mr. David Griffiths, "Some Saprophytic Fungi." Mr. Griffiths described the mechanical devices employed by the genera of the Pyrenomycetes for the distribution of their spores. The genera discussed were *Podospora*, *Sordaria*, *Delctschia* and *Sporosmia.*

Miscellaneous notes followed. Dr. Underwood exhibited specimens of *Helonias bullata* and *Epigaea repens*, both collected near Metuchen, N. J.

Dr. Britton remarked on the Japanese species of *Pachysandra* then blooming at the New York Botanical Garden, and called attention to the striking similarity between the fragrance of its flowers and those of *Epigaea repens.*

J. K. SMALL, *Secretary, pro tem.*

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, May 5, 1900

The meeting was held in the lecture hall of the Museum Building at the New York Botanical Garden. Dr. Britton presided; twenty-seven persons were present.

The lecture of the afternoon was by Dr. M. A. Howe. The subject was "The Hepaticae." The term Hepaticae was used in a restricted sense, excluding the Anthocerotes. After a few introductory remarks in regard to the position occupied by the Hepaticae in the vegetable kingdom, the speaker reviewed the life-history of a few of the typical forms, the principal details of structure being exhibited by aid of lantern slides. The slides also showed the habit characters of various local species and of some from the Pacific coast.

J. K. SMALL, *Secretary pro tem.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 30, 1900

The meeting was held at Hazelwood, the residence of Vice-President Dr. T. F. Allen, near Litchfield, Conn., subsequent to a field excursion arranged by Dr. Allen, in the vicinity of Litchfield, the Club being his guests from May 29th to May 31st.

Dr. Allen in the chair and sixteen members present.

In the absence of the Secretary, Dr. N. L. Britton was elected Secretary *pro tem.*

The minutes of the meeting of May 8, 1900, were read and approved.

Messrs. F. L. Montgomery and E. A. Colby, duly recommended by the Committee on Admissions were elected active members of the Club.

The resignations of Mrs. Charles M. Kirby, Dr. Leon Labonde and Miss Mathilde E. Sutro were presented and accepted.

It was resolved that the regular meetings of the second Tuesdays in October and November be held at the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Garden at four o'clock P. M.

Professor Lloyd called attention to the occurrence of nectaries * on the leaves of *Pteridium aquilinum.* The glands are found on the rachis, one below the insertion of each pinna, and may be recognized as modified oval areas covered by a dark red epidermis. The color is due to the presence of matter dissolved in the sap, and is found also in lines running up and sometimes down the rachis from the glands. These are very active during the rapid growth of the frond, their activity ceasing on the attainment of maturity. The secretion, which is very abundant, is formed independently of bleeding pressure, and the fluid is thick and syrupy. So rapidly does it accumulate that one may notice the increase in the size of the drops with a hand lens. The secretion escapes through modified stomata similar in form to the water-stomata of *Tropaeolum.* The glandular tissue beneath extends deeply into the cortical mass of the petiole ; its cells are small and contain chlorophyll.

Small ants, and one honey-gathering dipterous insect were noticed visiting the glands ; none were seen to be gnawed by the insects. As Francis Darwin observed, the plant has few natural enemies or none, and the interpretation must be sought in the internal economy of the plant, probably in connection with nutrition. The abundant excretion of sugar may be a carrier of or an accompaniment to the excretion of some harmful substance. It is noteworthy that up to the present time no other pteridophyte has been reported to be possessed of nectar-secreting organs. The plants on which the observations were made grew near Bantam Lake, Litchfield, Conn.

Dr. Britton remarked on a young tree of the Swamp Spruce, *Picea brevifolia* Peck, found during the day in a sphagnum bog near Litchfield, and stated that this was probably the most southern known station for this species in New England. The short glaucous leaves and nearly glabrous twigs readily distinguish this tree from the Black Spruce, *P. Mariana.*

Mrs. Britton exhibited specimens of the red-flowered Columbine of the Litchfield region, and remarked on its growth in open fields and the pubescent character of the plant, differing in these features from the plant of the vicinity of New York, which inhabits rocky ledges and is nearly or quite glabrous. She noted that the pubescent plant is also abundant in fields on the Pocono plateau of Pennsylvania.

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* Described briefly by Francis Darwin ('77), and later by Figdor ('91).

A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Allen for his most generous and agreeable hospitality.

N. L. BRITTON,
Secretary pro tem.